BOROUGH OF CHARD.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1910.

To the Mayor and Members of the Chard Town Council.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—I have the honour of submitting to you my report for the year ending 31st December, 1910.

The various percentages in calculating the birth and death rates are based on an estimated population of 4,650.

BIRTHS.—The total number of births registered was 111, being one less than last year; male births being 53, female births, 58. The rate is 23·8 per 1,000 of estimated population; the average for the last ten years is 23·9.

DEATHS.—The total number of deaths registered was 58, being 12 less than previous year. The death rate is 12·4 per 1,000 of estimated population; the average rate for the last ten years is 16·5. 12 deaths occurred in the Union Workhouse, 9 being non-resident; excluding these, the death rate is 10·5.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE.—13 infants died under the age of one year, giving a rate of 117 per 1000 births registered; the average rate for the preceding 10 years 119·1. Five of these deaths were due to premature birth. Deaths occurred at the following ages:—

Under 1 year	13
1 and under 5	3
5 ,, ,, 15	1
15 ,, ,, 25	0
25 ,, ,, 65	17
65 and upwards	15
	49

CAUSES OF DEATH.—Whooping Cough 2. Enteritis 4. Phthisis 3. Other tuberculous diseases 1. Cancer 6. Bronchitis 2. Other diseases of respiratory organs 1. Alcoholism 1. Premature birth 5. Heart disease 3. Accident 1. Senility 10. Other causes 10. Total 49. There were no deaths from zymotic disease.

DISEASES NOTIFIED.—Diphtheria 1. Scarlet fever 1. Tuberculosis 1.

VACCINATION.—I am indebted to the Vaccination Officer for the following returns:—

Number of children born	112
Successfully vaccinated	41
Died unvaccinated	10
Postponed	7
Conscientious objections	33
Under 4 months of age	16

COWSHEDS.—The general condition of the cowsheds is satisfactory, and the regulations as to limewashing have been well kept in all cases, so I do not consider it necessary to make a special report.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.—The regulations as to limewashing have been complied with, and the dairies are clean and well kept.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES have been regularly inspected. There are six slaughter-houses in the Borough; these have been visited at times of slaughtering by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. The slaughter-houses are kept limewashed and fairly clean. There is no Inspector with a special certificate in meat inspection. No carcases were found to be tuberculous.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907.—Not adopted.

Part III of the Public Health Act Amendment Act.—Not adopted.

PAIL PRIVIES.—There are 34 pail privies in the district, most of these and some of the cess-pits will be converted to the water carriage system when the scheme of the new water supply is carried out.

BAKEHOUSES have been regularly inspected and found in good order and clean.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply is inefficient in some parts of the Borough. A trial boring has been sunk above Combe St. Nicholas, and there is a good prospect of a good supply being obtained.

SCHOOLS.—Many children have been absent, suffering from mumps and measles. In December I advised the closure of the Infants' High Street Schools, the County Medical Officer concurring, this was done to check the spread of measles. The schools were closed forthwith.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—Considerable delay has unfortunately occurred in the completion of the new Sewage Disposal Works, but it is confidently hoped that they will soon be in working order. The Sewage Farm has received the close personal attention of the Borough Surveyor, and it is chiefly due to this that such a satisfactory effluent is discharged.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS have been thoroughly inspected. The condition of the closets and urinals was satisfactory. In various workshops the ventilation was deficient, and the air vitiated. Various improvements have been suggested, but many workpeople, given the means of ventilation, object to use same.

HOMEWORKERS have been inspected, and the regulations are well carried out.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH TUBERCULOSIS REGULATIONS.—I have received one notification. This house has been inspected. Increased ventilation has been provided by landlord, which at subsequent visits I have noticed the tenants fail to avail themselves of. This case was sent to a convalescent home.

THE YEAR'S WORK.—The general health and sanitation of the Borough is satisfactory, and the prospect of a new water supply is pleasing, as one may reasonably expect increased cleanliness.

In conclusion, I beg, gentlemen, to thank you for your kind support. I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. NEVILLE B. VISE,

Medical Officer of Health, Chard Borough,

February 24th, 1911.